INVESTIGATION OF SO-CALLED "BLACKLISTING" IN ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY—REPORT OF THE FUND FOR THE REPUBLIC, INC.—PART 3

UNIVERSITY
OF MICHIGAN

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MAIN
READING ROOM

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

JULY 17 AND 18, 1956

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Public Law 601, 79th Congress

The legislation under which the House Committee on Un-American Activities operates is Public Law 601, 79th Congress (1946), chapter 753, 2d session, which provides:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, * * *

PART 2—RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rule X

SEC. 121. STANDING COMMITTEES

* * * * * * *

17. Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine members.

Rule XI

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

* * * * * * *

(q) (1) Committee on Un-American Activities.

(A) Un-American Activities.

(2) The Committee on Un-American Activities, as a whole or by subcommittee, is authorized to make from time to time, investigations of (i) the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, (ii) the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and (iii) all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.

The Committee on Un-American Activities shall report to the House (or to the Clerk of the House if the House is not in session) the results of any such investigation, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable.

For the purpose of any such investigation, the Committee on Un-American Activities, or any subcommittee thereof, is authorized to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether or not the House is sitting, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, to require the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, and to take such testimony, as it deems necessary. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of the chairman of the committee or any subcommittee, or by any member designated by any such chairman, and may be served by any person designated by any such chairman or member.

RULES ADOPTED BY THE 84TH CONGRESS

House Resolution 5, January 5, 1955

* * * * * * *

RULE X

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. There shall be elected by the House, at the commencement of each Congress:

* * * * * * *

(q) Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine members.

* * * * * * *

RULE XI

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INVESTIGATION OF SO-CALLED "BLACKLISTING" IN ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY—REPORT OF THE FUND FOR THE REPUBLIC, INC.—PART 3

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 1956

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Philadelphia, Pa.

PUBLIC HEARING

A subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met, pursuant to recess, at 2 p. m. in district court room No. 5, United States Courthouse, Hon. Francis E. Walter (chairman) presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives Francis E. Walter, of Pennsylvania; Harold H. Velde, of Illinois; and Gordon H. Scherer, of Ohio.

Staff members present: Richard Arens, director; W. Jackson Jones, K. Baarslag, Richard S. Weil, and Mrs. Dolores Scotti.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in order.

This committee is interested in inquiring further into the recent report by the Fund for the Republic, Inc., on so-called "blacklisting" practices in the entertainment field.

In Washington last week the committee received extensive testimony about the Fund for the Republic's "blacklisting" report, and about the actual conditions which prevail in the industry today in respect to the employment of Communists.

The hearings last week left no doubt that the Fund for the Republic's report is a partisan, biased attack on all persons and organizations who are sincerely and patriotically concerned in ridding the movie industry and the radio and television industry of Communists and Communist sympathizers. We have learned that, contrary to the report of the Fund for the Republic, it is not so-called "blacklisting" which constitutes a grave menace in the entertainment industry; the real menace is the use of Communist tactics designed to capture America's vast media of communication and information for the Communists.

The Fund for the Republic in its report cited a number of examples of persons it wished to believe were deprived of employment because of the sinister machinery of blacklisting.

In order to determine the facts the committee has subpenaed several of the so-called victims of blacklisting by the report. I might add that for curious reasons some of the named unfortunates who have supposedly been blacklisted are at the moment very much employed. As a matter of fact, a couple of them might not be able to appear, because they are too busy professionally.

The committee is deeply concerned over the extent of the Communist penetration of the entertainment industry. It hopes through the appearance of the witnesses we have subpenaed for today, together with other information we have received on this subject, to be able to formulate legislative measures which would effectively deal with this problem.

Call your witness, Mr. Arens.

Mr. ARENS. Gale Sondergaard, please.

Kindly remain standing while the chairman administers an oath to you.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you swear the testimony you are about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I beg your pardon. I didn't realize you were speaking to me. I do, yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you swear the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I do.

Mr. McBRIDE. Shall I note my appearance on the record?

Mr. ARENS. We will see that that is done at the appropriate time.

The CHAIRMAN. Proceed.

TESTIMONY OF GALE SONDERGAARD BIBERMAN, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, THOMAS D. McBRIDE

Mr. ARENS. Kindly identify yourself by name, residence, and occupation.

Miss SONDERGAARD. My name is Gale Sondergaard Biberman. I live at 3259 Deronda Drive, Hollywood, Calif. I am an actress.

Mr. ARENS. Are you appearing today in response to a subpena which was served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Miss SONDERGAARD. That is correct.

Mr. ARENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I am represented by counsel.

Mr. ARENS. Counsel, will you kindly identify yourself.

Mr. McBRIDE. Thomas D. McBride, 2015 Land Title Building, Philadelphia.

Mr. ARENS. Will you kindly give the committee a brief sketch of your educational background?

Miss SONDERGAARD. Yes, very gladly. I went to elementary school in Litchfield, Minn., as a small child. I went to elementary school for 3 years in the city of Philadelphia. I went to high school and college in Minneapolis, Minn. I graduated from the University of Minnesota. I graduated from the Minneapolis Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Mr. ARENS. Would you give us the approximate period of time when you concluded your formal education?

Miss SONDERGAARD. The approximate period of time? It was in the twenties.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly give us a brief chronological account of your career in the dramatic work in which you have been engaged?

Miss SONDERGAARD. Yes. I might say that you have all of this in your record from the last time I appeared, but I would be very happy to repeat it if you so desire.

Mr. ARENS. Just a thumbnail sketch, if you please.

Miss SONDERGAARD. I began playing in Chautauqua while I was going to college. I used to go out in the summers and tour on 1-night stands, as we called it. From there I went into a Shakespearean company touring the entire country. Then I went to the Jesse Bonstell Co. in Detroit and played for 2 years as the leading woman. From there I went, with other things in between, since you want it brief—I went to the Theater Guild in New York City. I played Eugene O'Neill's Strange Interlude. I was with them for 3 years. I played many Broadway productions, leading roles. I went to Hollywood. I have been there for 20 years and have played in perhaps 40 motion pictures. I won an Academy Award for Anthony Adverse, which was my first picture, and a nomination for the role in Anna and the King of Siam.

Mr. ARENS. May I ask you if you will give us just the highlights of your career from 1947 on as distinguished from your overall career.

Miss SONDERGAARD. From 1947 on I played in one motion picture. This was in 1949. The picture was East Side–West Side, which Mervyn LeRoy produced and directed. That is all I have done in the motion-picture industry. I have played, however, in a few summer theaters throughout those years, a very few, and very recently I have done a one-woman show in Los Angeles and in Chicago.

Mr. ARENS. Are you currently engaged in a theatrical performance?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I am currently engaged; yes; in Anastasia in the playhouse in the Park, which opened last night to an ovation.

Mr. ARENS. I invite your attention to a report which was published very recently on so-called "blacklisting" by the Fund for the Republic, in which are set forth a series of some few cases alleged by the author to be typical of people who have been denied employment or have been impeded in their employment. I should like to read you one particular paragraph which is applicable to yourself.

> Gale Sondergaard, wife of Herbert Biberman of the Hollywood Ten, found that she was suddenly "unemployable" after her husband refused to testify, though she had previously made about 45 pictures, had won an Oscar for her performance in "Anthony Adverse" and had been nominated for another after she appeared in "Anna and the King of Siam." Following the 1947 hearings Miss Sondergaard made only one film, produced by Mervyn LeRoy. LeRoy told her that he had been questioned by dozens of people who asked him wonderingly if he did not know who she was.

On the basis of this report which is published by a great foundation with tremendous resources and being disseminated over the length and breadth of this land, I should like to ask you if it is a fact that following your husband's appearance your actual activity in the theatrical world was minimized. Is that correct?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I would say it very definitely is correct in the motion picture industry.

Mr. ARENS. In your judgment was that attributed exclusively to the fact, as recounted here, that your husband had refused to testify in a proceeding?

Miss SONDERGAARD. It would be my opinion that this was the reason I was not employed.

Mr. SCHERER. What year was that, Mr. Counsel?

Mr. ARENS. In 1947.

Have you ever been discriminated against in employment in the theater because of your political beliefs?

Miss SONDERGAARD. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been discriminated against in the theater because you were a controversial figure?

Miss SONDERGAARD. Not to my mind.

Mr. ARENS. In your judgment, following 1947 did any incident occur in your life which contributed to a lessening in your employment in the theater?

Miss SONDERGAARD. Yes, of course.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly recount it just in your own words.

Miss SONDERGAARD. The fact that I was called before this committee and invoked the fifth amendment at that time.

Mr. ARENS. In your opinion is that the exclusive and sole reason why you have had a lessening in your employment since 1947?

Miss SONDERGAARD. In my opinion, yes.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a man, a person by the name of Martin Berkeley?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I decline to answer that question on two counts: Because I choose not to be a witness against myself in accordance with my right under the fifth amendment.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend that if you told this committee the truth as to whether or not you know Martin Berkeley you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Miss SONDERGAARD. The word "incriminate" means the giving of evidence which might be used against one in a criminal prosecution or which might lead to the discovery of other evidence which could be used against one in a criminal prosecution, whether or not he is guilty of any crime.

Mr. ARENS. In this period since 1947 Martin Berkeley testified under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and identified you as a member of the Communist conspiracy, did he not?

Miss SONDERGAARD. What is my constitutional right on that, Mr. McBride?

Mr. MCBRIDE. If you know, I think it is your duty to answer whether or not he did so testify.

Miss SONDERGAARD. If I remember correctly, he did.

Mr. ARENS. Was Mr. Berkeley lying or was he telling the truth when he took an oath and identified you in 1951 as a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Miss SONDERGAARD. May I ask counsel's advice on that?

Mr. MCBRIDE. Yes. I advise you that you might quite properly claim the same constitutional grounds you have previously asserted.

Miss SONDERGAARD. I would like to claim the same constitutional grounds I have previously asserted.

Mr. ARENS. One Elizabeth Wilson testified under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in September 1951 to the effect that she knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy. Was Elizabeth Wilson lying or was she telling the truth when she so testified?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I would claim the same privilege as I have just claimed.

Mr. SCHERER. Who was Elizabeth Wilson, Mr. Counsel?

Mr. ARENS. She was a witness before the committee who was a former member of the Communist Party. She testified under oath that she knew the present witness as a member of the Communist conspiracy.

Mr. SCHERER. For the record Martin Berkeley is engaged in what profession?

Mr. ARENS. Martin Berkeley was a former member of the Communist Party, who testified under oath on September 19, 1951, and identified one Gale Sondergaard as a person known by him to have been a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. SCHERER. What is his occupation?

Mr. ARENS. He is a writer.

Do you know a person by the name of Bernard Schoenfeld?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to testify on the same basis.

Mr. ARENS. Bernard Schoenfeld testified under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities on August 19, 1952, and identified you as a person who was to his certain knowledge a member of the Communist Party. Was he lying or was he telling the truth?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to testify for the same reason.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Larry Parks?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to testify for the same reason.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know that under date of March 21, 1951, Larry Parks testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities under oath and stated in effect that he knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy? Do you know that as a fact?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I take the same privilege.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest you may want to consult with your counsel on that. I only am asking you whether or not you know Larry Parks did so testify.

Mr. MCBRIDE. I think counsel is entirely correct. If you know that he did so testify it is your duty to answer "Yes." If you do not know, you should say that you do not know, but I do not believe that it is a matter for the assertion of the constitutional privilege.

Miss SONDERGAARD. I am afraid I didn't listen to the question too well. They come so fast.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know that Larry Parks testified under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities that he knew you as a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Miss SONDERGAARD. It is my impression that he did. I don't know how I got that impression. From the newspapers, probably.

Mr. ARENS. Was Mr. Parks lying or was he telling the truth when he so testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities under oath?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I would claim the same privilege which I have claimed before.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know that a person by the name of Lee J. Cobb under date of June 2, 1953, testified under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and identified you as a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I think this is the first time I have had this information, if you are giving it to me as information.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know Lee J. Cobb?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to testify on the same grounds.

Mr. ARENS. Was Mr. Cobb lying or was he telling the truth when he identified you as a member of the Communist conspiracy on the date of June 2, 1953?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to testify on the same grounds.

Mr. SCHERER. Counsel, for the record, who is Lee J. Cobb?

Mr. ARENS. He is an actor, a former member of the Communist Party.

Do you know a person by the name of Morris L. Appelman?

Miss SONDERGAARD. The name is not familiar to me.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know that under date of January 10, 1952, Morris L. Appelman identified you in testimony under oath before the House Committee on Un-American Activities as a person known by him to have been a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to answer on the same privilege.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been interviewed by a representative of the Fund for the Republic Inc.?

Miss SONDERGAARD. May I say that I answered a questionnaire.

Mr. ARENS. When was that questionnaire submitted to you?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I don't have much remembrance of it.

Mr. ARENS. What is your best recollection? Was it in the course of the last couple of years?

Miss SONDERGAARD. Yes.

Miss ARENS. What was the questionnaire about?

Miss SONDERGAARD. The questionnaire—you would know what it was about from this little piece that you read to me. It was how much I had worked, what I have done in the past years in my profession, in the motion-picture industry.

Mr. ARENS. Did the questionnaire have any questions undertaking, if you recall, to elicit from you any basis or reason for the lessening in your employment activities?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I don't remember exactly. I would have to see the questionnaire to know just how it was worded.

Mr. SCHERER. Witness, did you keep a copy of the questionnaire?

Miss SONDERGAARD. No; I did not.

Mr. SCHERER. Did the questionnaire ask you about your former membership in the Communist Party? Was there any question along that line?

Miss SONDERGAARD. Again I would have to see the questionnaire to remember. I don't remember the exact details of the questionnaire.

Mr. SCHERER. But if the questionnaire had asked about membership in the Communist Party what would you have said?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to answer that question on the same basis.

Mr. SCHERER. In answering the questionnaire, of course you were not under oath. Do you remember?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I beg your pardon. I don't hear what you are saying, sir.

Mr. SCHERER. I said when you answered the questionnaire of the Fund for the Republic, of course you were not under oath. That is correct?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I was not under oath when I answered the questionnaire.

Mr. SCHERER. You have no recollection, then, of the questionnaire containing any questions as to membership in the Communist Party?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I have no recollection of it; no.

Mr. SCHERER. Do you have a recollection of any mention in the questionnaire about the testimony of witnesses before this committee concerning your membership in the Communist Party?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I really have very little remembrance of the actual questionnaire except that it asked me what I had done in my profession in the motion-picture industry in the past years. This was my impression.

Mr. ARENS. In 1951, did you have occasion to address the executive board of the Screen Actors Guild?

Miss SONDERGAARD. The Screen Actors Guild, that is right.

Mr. ARENS. Do you recall the subject matter of your address?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I did not address them. I wrote a letter to them before I came for my hearing before this committee.

Mr. ARENS. What was the subject matter of your statement or written matter which you addressed to the Screen Actors Guild?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I wonder if you could perhaps read that also from the book, the Fund for the Republic.

Mr. ARENS. I will be very happy to.

At the time of the 1951 hearings, Gale Sondergaard addressed the executive board of the Actors Guild through an ad in Variety. Miss Sondergaard asked the union to support her right to plead the Fifth Amendment and to make a public declaration that it would not tolerate any industry blacklist against any of its members.

Is that a correct interpretation of what you did at the time?

Miss SONDERGAARD. Yes.

Mr. ARENS. Did you regard it at that time as blacklisting of yourself to preclude you from employment in the entertainment industry?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I am sorry. I don't follow that question. I am not very good on legal terms.

Mr. ARENS. Were you by your interpretation of the word "blacklist" being blacklisted in 1951?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I think I anticipated that I would be when I came before this committee because I saw what happened to other people before that.

Mr. ARENS. The other people?—were those the Hollywood Ten?

The CHAIRMAN. The Hollywood Ten.

Miss SONDERGAARD. I was very close to the situation because my husband was one of the Hollywood Ten.

The CHAIRMAN. When you mentioned "other people" you meant the Hollywood Ten, didn't you?

Miss SONDERGAARD. That was my immediate knowledge of it, yes.

Mr. ARENS. All of those persons whom we have indicated in the last few moments were the Hollywood Ten—each had been identified under oath by a witness before the House Committee on Un-American Activities as a person who was a member of the Communist conspiracy, isn't that correct?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to answer that question on the same basis.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the witness be ordered and directed to answer that question or perhaps consult with her counsel. It is a matter of public record.

The CHAIRMAN. The record is the best evidence. It is a fact. Ask another question, Mr. Counsel.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a member of the Screen Actors Guild?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mr. MCBRIDE. You may, if you choose, claim your same constitutional privileges as you have already done.

Miss SONDERGAARD. Is there anything incriminating in being a member of the Screen Actors Guild?

Mr. MCBRIDE. I honestly know nothing about it so I can't advise you on that point.

Miss SONDERGAARD. I am a member of the Screen Actors Guild.

Mr. ARENS. Do you hold an office in the Screen Actors Guild?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I do not hold an office in the Screen Actors Guild.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever held an office in the Screen Actors Guild?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I have never held an office in the Screen Actors Guild.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been on the executive board of the Screen Actors Guild?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I have not been on the executive board of the Screen Actors Guild.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a member or have you been a member of the Motion Picture Artists Committee?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to answer that question on the same basis which I refused before.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend if you told this committee truthfully whether or not you have ever been a member of the Motion Picture Artists Committee you would be supplying information which might be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Miss SONDERGAARD. Mr. Counsel, I would like to say here that I at one time saw a book which had a long list of organizations which have been called subversive by the Attorney General. Any of these organizations if they are brought up, I believe one must protect oneself from your questions and assume the privilege.

Mr. ARENS. Have you been a member of the League of Women Shoppers?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to answer that on the basis I refused before.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly tell the committee where you were living in 1944. What was your address?

Miss SONDERGAARD. In 1944 I was living at 3259 Deronda Drive, Hollywood, Calif.

Mr. ARENS. Was your occupation at that time an actress?

Miss SONDERGAARD. 1944, yes; of course my occupation has always been an actress.

Mr. ARENS. I lay before you now a photostatic copy of a card and ask you if you have ever seen the original of which that is a photostatic copy.

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Miss SONDERGAARD. What was your question?

Mr. ARENS. I ask you if you have ever seen the original card, of which that is a photostat.

Miss SONDERGAARD. No; I have never seen the original of which that is a photostat.

Mr. ARENS. I put to you as a fact, and ask you to affirm or deny the fact, that that is a photostatic copy of a Communist Party membership card No. 46943, which was issued to you in December 1944.

Miss SONDERGAARD. I have never seen that card.

Mr. MCBRIDE. Just a moment. Do you want me to call this to your attention?

(Mr. Arens and Mr. McBride conferring.)

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist Party in 1944?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to answer that question, claiming the same privilege.

Mr. ARENS. Are you a member of the Communist Party at the present time?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to answer that question on both amendments, claiming them.

Mr. ARENS. What have been your financial contributions to the Communist Party in the course of the last 10 years?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to answer that question, claiming the same privileges.

Mr. ARENS. Have you contributed as much as $20,000 to the Communist Party since 1930?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to answer that question, claiming the same priveleges.

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Miss SONDERGAARD. Mr. Counsel, may I point out that all of these questions, all of this information you have on your records and I don't quite understand being called here at this time when I am in the middle of a creative work, one of the first that I have had in 5 years. You have all of this information. You don't need to go over it again and get the same answers. I have stated publicly before that my position is unchanged, and I think I could save you a great deal of time if you would just note that.

Mr. ARENS. Now would you kindly answer this question. Since 1947 have you at any time, in view of this array of witnesses who have identified you as a member of the Communist conspiracy, ever denied to any employer, any interviewer, any person, that you are or have been a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I refuse to answer that question, claiming the same privileges.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the witness be ordered and directed to answer that question whether or not she has ever denied membership?

The CHAIRMAN. You are directed to answer the question.

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Mr. MCBRIDE. Will the counsel repeat it so that in giving my advice I will be at least sure that I mean to give the right advice.

Mr. ARENS. Will you kindly read the question.

(The pending question was read by the reporter.)

Mr. MCBRIDE. Miss Sondergaard, since the question of denial may be implied as an admission, I advise you that you are fully within your rights in claiming your constitutional privileges despite the direction to answer.

Miss SONDERGAARD. I would claim my constitutional privileges as my counsel suggests, advises.

The CHAIRMAN. Miss Sondergaard, when you were asked to sign this questionnaire by a representative of the Fund for the Republic, did you indicate to him that all the things that he might be interested in were a matter of record of this committee?

Miss SONDERGAARD. On the questionnaire?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Miss SONDERGAARD. I don't remember whether that was on—You mean why would I indicate this?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. You have stated that you are wondering why you are testifying when you say all of the things you have been asked are a matter of record. The reason why you have been called to testify is perfectly obvious. It is because of this very questionnaire that you filled out.

Miss SONDERGAARD. Yes, I see. All of the information is in the book that I gave them.

Mr. ARENS. Do you regard it as blacklisting for the entertainment industry to preclude employment opportunity to people who have been identified under oath by responsible witnesses before a congressional committee as members of the Communist conspiracy?

Miss SONDERGAARD. May I take that straight?

Mr. MCBRIDE. I think that you are being asked your opinion, Miss Sondergaard, and I think you should answer——

Mr. ARENS. I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the witness has opened the door because she previously expressed her opinion.

Mr. MCBRIDE. The witness' opinion is protected by the first amendment and is not subject to inquiry in any court in all the world.

The CHAIRMAN. You advise your client, Mr. McBride. The procedure here is quite different from that in court.

Mr. MCBRIDE. Very good, Mr. Chairman.

I advise you, Miss Sondergaard, that the question of what opinions you hold are beyond the right of this committee or any committee or any court, or anybody, to pry into and that you are protected in your opinions by the first amendment. However, if you choose to answer that, you may.

Miss SONDERGAARD. I, of course, would like to answer that question, but I would like to be protected by law also because there are many traps, I know, in this kind of hearing.

The CHAIRMAN. I assure you that nobody is attempting to set any traps for you or anyone else.

Miss SONDERGAARD. Thank you very much, Mr. Walter.

Mr. ARENS. Did you not volunteer the opinion to this committee that you as a person had been blacklisted?

Miss SONDERGAARD. You mean today I volunteered that?

Mr. ARENS. Yes.

Miss SONDERGAARD. I may have done so. This is very much in my mind and I may have said it. I would like to say——

Mr. ARENS. If you will pardon me for a question, do you know of anyone else in comparable status, who has been identified before a congressional committee as a member of the Communist conspiracy, and who is likewise in your judgment, blacklisted?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I would like just to answer for myself on that question. If you ask me specifically I would claim my privileges.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that that concludes the staff interrogation of this witness.

The CHAIRMAN. Questions?

Mr. VELDE. Yes, just one.

Apparently you haven't had a change of heart since your testimony before this committee in 1949.

Miss SONDERGAARD. So I have said many times.

Mr. VELDE. You have not?

Miss SONDERGAARD. I have not had a change in my feelings about this kind of an investigation.

Mr. VELDE. Don't you think that if you had had a change of heart and had come before this committee and given us the benefit of your experiences in the Communist Party so that we might more ably——

Miss SONDERGAARD. I am sorry, sir. I don't follow. Perhaps it is legal terms or something I don't quite follow what you are trying to ask. Can you simplify it for me?

Mr. VELDE. Suppose you had given us the benefit of your experiences in the Communist Party, do you think that you would have been backlisted, as you put it?

Miss SONDERGAARD. Let's see. If I had given you—would you repeat it once more, please?

Mr. VELDE. If you had given us the benefit of your experiences in the Communist Party, don't you think you would have had an easier time in obtaining employment than you have had by not giving us the benefit of your experiences?

(The witness conferred with her counsel.)

Miss SONDERGAARD. What is my constitutional privilege?

Mr. MCBRIDE. Miss Sondergaard, all that I can say is that the question is speculative. I don't know whether you can answer it or not. It requires you to speculate as to whether, had you testified fully and freely against other people, your path would have been easier. That is asking for an opinion which I think you might justly claim the constitutional right to refuse because it assumes that you did have experiences in the Communist Party.

Miss SONDERGAARD. May I say also it assumes——

Mr. MCBRIDE. You had better state your position.

Miss SONDERGAARD. I will follow my counsel's advice and refuse to answer that question for the same reasons.

Mr. VELDE. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Scherer.

Mr. SCHERER. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. The witness is excused from further service under the subpena.

Miss SONDERGAARD. Thank you.

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INVESTIGATION OF SO-CALLED "BLACKLISTING" IN ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY—REPORT OF THE FUND FOR THE REPUBLIC, INC.—PART 3

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1956

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Philadelphia, Pa.

PUBLIC HEARING

A subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met, pursuant to recess, at 10 a. m., in district court room No. 5, United State Courthouse, Hon. Francis E. Walter (chairman) presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives Francis E. Walter of Pennsylvania and Gordon H. Scherer of Ohio.

Staff members present: Richard Arens, director; W. Jackson Jones, K. Baarslag, Richard S. Weil, and Mrs. Dolores Scotti.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in order.

Call your first witness, Mr. Arens.

Mr. ARENS. Will Jack Gilford kindly come forward.

Please remain standing while the chairman administers the oath to you.

The CHAIRMAN. Raise your right hand, please.

Do you swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. GILFORD. I do.

TESTIMONY OF JACK GILFORD, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL, MARTIN POPPER

Mr. ARENS. Kindly identify yourself, sir, by name, residence, and occupation.

Mr. GILFORD. May I put my notes out, please?

My name is Jack Gilford. I am an actor. I live at 75 Bank Street, in New York City.

Mr. ARENS. Will you kindly spell your name for the record?

Mr. GILFORD. G-i-l-f-o-r-d.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Gilford, are you appearing today in response to a subpena which was served upon you by the House Committee on Un-American Activities?

Mr. GILFORD. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. Are you represented by counsel?

Mr. GILFORD. That is right.

Mr. ARENS. Will counsel kindly identify himself?

Mr. POPPER. My name is Martin Popper, P-o-p-p-e-r, member of the bar of New York.

Would you, Mr. Arens, be good enough to let the witness know what the subject matter of the inquiry is?

Mr. ARENS. Yes. On page 214 of a report issued by the Fund for the Republic after a recitation of a situation pertaining to so-called blacklisting we find this language:

> Jack Gilford, a comedian, had been hired by the Metropolitan to appear in a nonsinging part. Gilford received considerable publicity since he was the first comedian to be hired by the tradition-bound opera company. Gilford performed without incident in New York City but when the opera went on the road a protest was unleashed in Syracuse. The source of this action was the Onondaga County Post No. 41 of the American Legion which works in close cooperation with Laurence Johnson. Gilford had been "listed" in Red Channels and the Legionnaires demanded that the Metropolitan fire him. The opera company stood firm, however, and Gilford was allowed to continue in the part.

Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that counsel be advised at this time that your sole and exclusive function in this proceeding is to advise your client with reference to your client's rights.

Mr. POPPER. That is right——

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Popper knows that. He has appeared with many people. He knows the rules of the committee.

Mr. POPPER. All I would like to know is the subject matter of the inquiry. What is the subject matter?

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Gilford, would you kindly answer this question?

Were you ever deprived of employment since your so-called listing in Red Channels?

Mr. GILFORD. I would like to know the subject matter, Mr. Arens.

Mr. ARENS. The subject matter is this question: Were you ever deprived of employment—were you ever discharged from any employment—because of the so-called, quote, "listing" in Red Channels?

(The witness conferred with his counsel).

Mr. GILFORD. I think the subject matter of this inquiry——

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I suggest the witness be ordered and directed to answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. I will answer it. I would just like to preface it by saying the subject matter is not within the scope of this committee.

The CHAIRMAN. You can raise that question in the proper forum.

Mr. GILFORD. I am raising it now, Mr. Walter.

The CHAIRMAN. Answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. The question certainly is a very important one to me and I am here because I have many facts relating to this.

The CHAIRMAN. Answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. I am answering it, Mr. Walter. I would just like briefly to state in very short terms a very brief biography before the Met——

The CHAIRMAN. We do not care about your biography. We want you to answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. I was hired by the Met, by the Metropolitan Opera Co. in New York in 1950. I appeared in the New York run and the spring tour in a very successful engagement, with very good notices. I appeared on the radio show of Die Fledermaus which was broadcast by the Texaco Co. on a national network. There was absolutely no incident. Nothing was done——

The CHAIRMAN. Over what period of time?

Mr. GILFORD. From 1950—the end of 1950 to just before the summer, into the spring of 1951. In 1951, fall, we went on a tour. We

opened here in Philadelphia at the Academy of Music, and Mr. Bing received a letter from Syracuse from a Mr. Latimer that said:

DEAR MR. BING: I am Secretary of the Un-American Activities Committee of this Post—

That is the Onondaga Post, Syracuse Post, No. 41, American Legion—

and would like a clarification from you and the Metropolitan Opera Association as to why you are including in the cast of Die Fledermaus, Jack Gilford to play in Loews State Theater, Syracuse, N. Y. November 24 and December 1.

It certainly seems to me as though, with all the actors we have in this country who have never been associated with subversives, that Jack Gilford could easily be replaced. We know that there is nothing illegal in what Mr. Gilford has done and we are not accusing him of being a Communist, but unless the situation is clarified and to our satisfaction, I believe the best thing to do would be to submit the entire record of Gilford before the people of Syracuse through various civic organizations.

Signed "Robert Latimer."

Mr. Bing answered on October 17——

The CHAIRMAN. May we have that letter?

Mr. POPPER. We will send a photostatic copy to you. This is the only copy he has.

Mr. GILFORD. I would like to keep this letter in my possession. I will be happy——

The CHAIRMAN. I would like to see the letter you are reading.

Mr. GILFORD. I will send you a photostat of the exact copy.

The CHAIRMAN. May I see it now?

Mr. GILFORD. This is the only letter I have.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you sure you read it correctly?

Mr. GILFORD. Yes, I am sure I read it correctly, and I would like what I read entered into the record with your permission.

The CHAIRMAN. We will just suspend for a second. Mr. Arens.

Mr. ARENS. Yes, sir.

Mr. GILFORD. Excuse me. I read the letter and I would like to read the answer, which is very pertinent, which is my answer.

The CHAIRMAN. Just a minute.

Mr. GILFORD. "Dear Mr. Latimer," he says.

This letter was sent from Mr. Bing to Mr. Latimer.

Your letter of October 10 addressed to Mr. Bing—

pardon me. This was signed by Mr. Allen, Mr. Bing's assistant—

addressed to Mr. Bing, reached our office when he was in Richmond, Va. In order that there may be no delay in acknowledging your letter, I am writing you herewith on behalf of the management.

I should state at the outset that although you assume that it does not seem possible that the Metropolitan should have been unaware of Mr. Gilford's alleged affiliations, we are not aware of any of his alleged activities for several obvious reasons.

In the first place, the Metropolitan Opera Co. employs some 300 artists in addition to the eighty-some members engaged for the Die Fledermaus tour. It must be obvious that we cannot embark upon a course of investigating the past political affiliation or sympathies of all of these artists prior to engaging them. We can, of course, assure you that the Metropolitan would not knowingly employ one who, after a fair hearing in the manner of American justice before an impartial tribunal, was found to be engaged in activities hostile to our country or destructive to our form of government. But the Metropolitan cannot sit as such a tribunal nor could it make such a decision on the basis of publications which are mere compilations from frequently dubious sources, compilations which in nowise represent the judgment of such a tribunal as we have mentioned under the conditions required by American justice.

Suffice it in the case of Mr. Gilford that none of the information, whatever its evidential value may be, with which you have furnished us, had in any way come to our attention until a few days previous to the performance of our Die Fledermaus company in Newark, October 1. Yet Mr. Gilford's association with the Metropolitan has been of nationwide public record for well over a year. He was employed by us during the summer of 1950 and appeared at the Metropolitan for the first time in New York in December 1950, and subsequently in 19 performances in the Metropolitan Opera House and in addition performed in 12 cities throughout the United States during the spring tour of 1951. During this period he appeared on January 20, 1951, as a featured member of the cast of Die Fledermaus in a broadcast over the entire network of the American Broadcasting Co. His reengagement for our touring company was publicly announced in the spring of this year and he has since appeared in a number of cities.

Despite this national publicity and despite the fact that the material upon which Mr. Gilford's alleged affiliations are based was all published before the summer of 1950, not a word of complaint was ever raised concerning our engagement of Mr. Gilford until shortly before the Newark performance referred to above. I might note in passing that this fact of silence for well over a year, now suddenly broken by the demands of the Catholic War Veterans in Newark and yourself, is in itself a fact far more strange than our ignorance of the alleged affiliations of Mr. Gilford.

I think that in determining any course of action your Legion post should consider in the light of the facts stated above the consequences of what you are proposing in your letter of October 10. You suggest that if Mr. Gilford cannot clarify this "situation" to your satisfaction the Metropolitan should discharge him or, if it does not, you intend to submit "the entire record" to the people of Syracuse.

Although since Mr. Gilford is presently out of New York we have been unable to discuss this matter with him, we suggest that in any event your proposal is in fact unfair. In the first place, although I would not in any way purport to speak for Mr. Gilford, you are proposing that his loyalty to the United States and his right to hold a job anywhere be tried and determined by the Syracuse Post No. 41 of the American Legion. That, of course, is a matter of indirect concern to the Metropolitan, which believes as strongly as you do in the American concepts and a fair trial. Of more direct interest to the Met is the fact that, although another actor might have been found and rehearsed at one time to fill Mr. Gilford's role, it would have been quite impossible to replace him at this time without seriously jeopardizing the quality of performance, even if the Metropolitan were in a legal position to terminate his services, which it is not.

I think you will agree that any position which you take must consider, not the single figure of Mr. Gilford but the employment and opportunities of an entire company of 80 Americans whose futures will be jeopardized if any action of yours should so prejudice our box office as to require cancellation of the balance of the tour, a right which we can exercise with respect to the entire company although not with respect to one individual.

Die Fledermaus company was intended as the first step in the development of a Metropolitan touring company which would tour the United States on an annual basis, giving opportunity to young American artists to develop their operatic careers in the United States at Metropolitan opera standards instead of having to look to Europe for such opportunity. If any action of yours should result in the destruction of this experiment, do you believe that these American artists who have looked forward to a 30 weeks' tour and an assured future with the Metropolitan will appreciate the ruin of their hopes resulting from your objections to one member of the troupe? I rather think they would not. I rather think that they would feel that they have been sacrificed in order that one man, who you admit has done nothing illegal and whom you do not claim to be a Communist, should be denied employment, and I think that any such move on your part would play into the hands of those who are busily attempting to sow confusion among the people of this country.

We appreciate the serious concern which has prompted your letter to us and the patriotic motives which underlie it and which we share. We would hope that in the light of the information we have given you, you will feel, with us, that our mutual interests in combating the enemies of this country would be best served in this instance by keeping in being this new and important development of

American cultural institutions and that this perhaps outweighs whatever feelings you have concerning this individual case.

Very truly yours,

REGINALD ALLEN.

Mr. Bing's associate.

Mr. ARENS. Now kindly tell this committee, after you were listed in Red Channels, whether or not you were deprived employment opportunities?

Mr. GILFORD. Yes, I was, definitely.

Mr. ARENS. Do you attribute the lessening in your employment opportunities exclusively to your listing in Red Channels?

Mr. GILFORD. Yes, exclusively.

Mr. ARENS. Did any other element play on the fact that you had a lessening in your employment opportunities?

Mr. GILFORD. Yes, it did

Let me comment on that, Mr. Arens. You are asking me several things and you don't let me comment at all.

Mr. ARENS. Go right ahead.

Mr. GILFORD. You asked me whether I lost any jobs. I submitted a sworn affidavit on November 16, 1951, that says to the American Legion Post:

DEAR SIRS: This is to certify that I am not a member of the Communist Party or of any subversive or Communist organizations. As I wrote in my letter of October 30 to Mr. Bing, of which was sent to your organization, a sworn statement to that effect is already on file with the American Guild of Variety Artists—

of which I am a national officer—

I have always tried to base my actions both as an artist and as a citizen on those fundamental principles upon which our Nation is founded. It will always be my effort both as a performer and in my personal conduct to maintain my standing as a hard-working, fervent, and loyal American.

Mr. ARENS. What is the date of that, please? Will you pause just a moment?

Mr. GILFORD. Mr. Arens, this is the closing of this item.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly answer. Add the date.

Mr. GILFORD. I received this letter from the American Legion Post——

Mr. ARENS. Will you kindly restrain yourself long enough to answer the question as to the date?

Mr. GILFORD. I said November 16, 1951. I read that.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you.

Mr. SCHERER. Pardon me just a minute.

Mr. GILFORD. I would just like to finish this. This is a very important part of my testimony.

Mr. SCHERER. I have a question to ask you, sir, with reference to the letter.

Mr. GILFORD. I haven't finished answering the last question, sir. I respectfully ask you——

The CHAIRMAN. You will have all the opportunity that you want. Just answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. I would like to answer this question first. Excuse me, sir. I must ask you a favor. I respect this body. I have all the respect for this body and I am easily rattled. I am not a lawyer. I am an actor. I am much more at home in a nightclub or a theater. I would like to answer.

The CHAIRMAN. Just answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. I can't be asked by three different people, sir. I just can't. I am sorry.

The CHAIRMAN. Remain quiet 1 minute and then you can hear a question and then you can answer it.

Mr. GILFORD. I would like to answer the last question, sir, before we go on to another, and that is because I have received this from the American Legion Post——

The CHAIRMAN. You are not asked anything about that.

Mr. GILFORD. With information from this committee which is derogatory, which is unverified. This committee and the post kept me from the Metropolitan Opera Co. in New York by which subsequently I was denied employment.

The CHAIRMAN. Now what is the question?

Mr. SCHERER. You mentioned that you submitted an affidavit to this American Legion Post. What was the date of that affidavit?

Mr. GILFORD. I will mention it again. I have just read it. This is the third time. November 16, 1951.

Mr. SCHERER. Who is the notary public on that affidavit?

Mr. GILFORD. I don't know him personally. He signed this. His name is Melville, Melville in Toronto, Canada.

Mr. SCHERER. Did you appear before him?

Mr. GILFORD. Yes; I did.

Mr. SCHERER. Did you swear to the affidavit?

Mr. GILFORD. Yes; I did.

Mr. SCHERER. In Toronto, Canada?

Mr. GILFORD. In Toronto, Canada.

The CHAIRMAN. Were you performing in Toronto at that time?

Mr. GILFORD. I was on the Met. We were on tour. It was prior to the Syracuse engagement.

Mr. SCHERER. That is all at this moment.

Mr. ARENS. May I interpose a question or two with reference to this particular document before we proceed further. I observe this in your statement of November 16, 1951:

> This is to certify that I am not a member of the Communist Party or of any subversive or Communist organizations.

On the date you submitted that had you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. GILFORD. I think that question is a diversion to what you brought me here for. I object to it. I think it is an invasion of my privacy, of the privacy of a citizen, and absolutely I came here to help you to help this terrible blacklisting. I have facts about being fired from shows. I have on file with the AGVA, my union, a sworn affidavit——

Mr. SCHERER. Mr. Chairman, I ask that you direct the witness to answer counsel's question.

The CHAIRMAN. You are directed to answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. Before I answer that question I would like to answer and give you all the information. I have just said that this committee, without my permission, was in touch with the post in Syracuse and blacklisted me from employment.

Based on this information, I was also thrown off jobs before any kind of statement was made.

The CHAIRMAN. Answer the question that Mr. Arens asked you a moment ago.

Mr. GILFORD. Because I feel that this is an invasion, I must say that I will use my constitutional privilege of not being a witness against myself.

The CHAIRMAN. And you refuse to answer the question?

Mr. GILFORD. I beg your pardon.

The CHAIRMAN. And you refuse to answer the question?

Mr. GILFORD. I refuse, under those grounds; yes, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend, sir, if you told this committee truthfully whether or not you have ever been a Communist, you would be supplying information which could be used against you in a criminal prosecution?

Mr. GILFORD. I have answered that question that——

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest the witness be ordered and directed to answer.

The CHAIRMAN. You are directed to answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. I answer it the same. I refuse to answer it under the previous grounds.

Mr. ARENS. I ask you why you did not in this affidavit which you submitted under date of November 16, 1951, to the American Legion post, include in it that you had never been a Communist?

Mr. GILFORD. I have answered that question previously.

Mr. SCHERER. I ask you to direct the witness to answer.

Mr. GILFORD. I refuse to answer that question on the previous grounds, and I would like to add more blacklist information. Is this committee interested in blacklist information?

Mr. SCHERER. We will get to that.

Mr. GILFORD. Because I would love to supply it.

Mr. SCHERER. We will get to that.

Mr. GILFORD. Everyone hates the blacklist. The whole TV industry hates the blacklist. They would like to get rid of it. I would like to supply important information to break down this thing if you are interested in this, sir.

Mr. SCHERER. You didn't object to the question asked you by Mr. Arens on the subject of this affidavit. That is what I am interested in now. Were you ever a member of the Communist Party prior to the day that you submitted this affidavit to the American Legion post?

Mr. GILFORD. The same answer as before, sir.

Mr. SCHERER. Were you a member after that date?

Mr. GILFORD. The same answer as before.

Mr. SCHERER. Did you resign from the Communist Party in order that you might sign this particular affidavit?

Mr. GILFORD. I refuse to answer that question on the same grounds.

Mr. SCHERER. Just a minute. You have a perfect right to refuse to answer, but let me complete the question. Did you resign from the Communist Party in order that you might sign this affidavit and the affidavit that you had on file?

Mr. GILFORD. I must say that the answer to that is the same as before.

Mr. ARENS. You said you were happy to talk about blacklisting. In your judgment, is it blacklisting to deprive employment to members of the Communist conspiracy who seek employment in the mass communication media of this Nation?

Mr. GILFORD. I do not wish to indulge in political polemics, Mr. Arens.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of Alvin Hammer?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. GILFORD. Yes; I think he is an actor. As a matter of fact, I think so.

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever belong to any organization of which Alvin Hammer was also a member?

Mr. GILFORD. Which organization?

Mr. ARENS. Any organization.

Mr. GILFORD. I might have been in the same union with him if he is an actor.

Mr. ARENS. Is that the only organization in which you and Alvin Hammer were comembers?

Mr. GILFORD. What organizations, sir?

Mr. ARENS. Just rack your brain now and tell us is there any organization you can recall in which both you and Alvin Hammer were members?

Mr. GILFORD. I wish you would be specific, Mr. Arens.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us whether or not you can remember being in an organization with Alvin Hammer in Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. GILFORD. I have racked my brain. I wish you would rack yours, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Do you have presently any recollection of an organization in which you and Alvin Hammer were members?

Mr. GILFORD. I am asking you, sir. You know, I would like to get on with this, too.

Mr. ARENS. Were you and Alvin Hammer members of Branch F of the Communist Party of Los Angeles, Calif.?

Mr. GILFORD. I must refuse to answer that question——

Mr. ARENS. I put it to you as a fact, sir——

Mr. GILFORD. On the previous grounds.

Mr. ARENS. That on August 15, 1944, you and Alvin Hammer were members of Branch F of the Communist Party of Los Angeles, Calif., and if that is not a fact, deny it while you are under oath before this committee.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. GILFORD. I won't comment on that, but I would like to get on with the blacklist.

Mr. ARENS. Let us get on with the blacklist. Tell this committee whether or not in your judgment, it is blacklisting for the industry to deprive employment to people who are members of the Communist conspiracy.

Mr. POPPER. I suggest that counsel stay in one place so I can advise my client.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest that Mr. Popper be admonished that his sole duty and responsibility is to advise his client.

Mr. POPPER. Your sole duty is to ask questions from back there, not to intimidate the witness.

Mr. ARENS. There is no intimidation of this witness suggested, and you know it.

The CHAIRMAN. I cannot imagine the witness being intimidated.

Mr. GILFORD. I intimidate pretty easily, sir.

Mr. ARENS. You want to talk about blacklisting: So tell this committee whether or not it is blacklisting to deprive employment opportunities in the mass communications media of this country to people who are part and parcel of the international Communist conspiracy?

Mr. GILFORD. Mr. Arens, I am an actor. I am not a judge. I will not judge people. I will not interpret what political affiliations are. There are too many loose interpretations of political things.

Mr. ARENS. You are not suggesting here, sir, are you, that membership and activity in the Communist conspiracy is a political activity?

Mr. GILFORD. I am not suggesting anything. The chairman issued a statement a few weeks ago that people should not be disemployed for any political affiliations.

The CHAIRMAN. I was directing my remarks—and, of course, they were not carried in full—against those situations in New York where people have been deprived of employment because they patriotically came forward and testified on behalf of the work being done by this committee.

Mr. GILFORD. Are they deprived of employment, sir?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; they are.

Mr. GILFORD. They must be pretty bad actors, too.

Mr. ARENS. Without in any sense undertaking to intimidate you and approaching you in what I would presume to be as gracious a manner as I am able to do, I lay before you a photostatic copy of a program of the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace, on which appear the names of a number of sponsors, including the name of a person identified here as Jack Gilford, G-i-l-f-o-r-d. I ask you, sir, whether or not that is you referred to as a sponsor of that conference.

Mr. GILFORD. I maintain, Mr. Arens, with as much graciousness as I can, that it is my duty here as a citizen, as an actor in the community of actors, to talk about a pernicious thing called blacklisting.

Mr. ARENS. All right, tell us whether or not you think it is blacklisting for the entertainment industry to deprive employment to people who are part and parcel of the Communist conspiracy? Let's start there on your explanation.

Mr. GILFORD. On the basis of political affiliation; yes.

Mr. ARENS. Do you think that a person who——

Mr. GILFORD. Do you think it is American to deprive anybody of a livelihood for what they think, sir? I think not.

Mr. ARENS. Kindly tell us whether or not you are the person indicated here in the Communist Daily Worker of April 23, 1947, who was entertaining on behalf of Gerhart Eisler and I lay before you now a photostatic copy of this Communist Daily Worker, page 4, April 23, 1947, and invite your attention to that article. Will you kindly tell us now whether or not you are that individual? Kindly tell us whether or not you are the Jack Gilford indicated in the article.

(The witness examined the document.)

Mr. GILFORD. I think this has nothing to do with what we are here for, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully——

Mr. GILFORD. I will answer the question right now. To the best of my knowledge I was not present at this.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever had your attention directed——

Mr. GILFORD. This has nothing to do with what we really want to get after, and that is the blacklist, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Tell this committee whether or not in your judgment it is blacklisting for the entertainment industry to deprive employment in mass communications media to people who are in the Communist conspiracy. Let's start with that when we discuss blacklisting. Have you ever had this article in the New York Communist Daily Worker directed to your attention before?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. GILFORD. I have answered the question. Really I don't remember whether I saw it or not.

Mr. ARENS. I believe we have not quite cleared the record.

Mr. SCHERER. Let's ask him another question. Do you know Gerhart Eisler?

Mr. GILFORD. I refuse to answer that question, sir, on the previous grounds.

Mr. SCHERER. On the ground that to answer the question might tend to incriminate you?

Mr. GILFORD. That I will not be a witness against myself according to constitutional privileges.

Mr. SCHERER. I agree you are properly invoking the fifth amendment.

Mr. GILFORD. If you feel that way, sir. I would like to talk about how I was thrown off by a Syracuse grocer without any verification at all.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know whether or not this Syracuse grocer knew you were a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. GILFORD. I don't know this Syracuse grocer, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist conspiracy when you were thrown off?

Mr. GILFORD. I have answered that before, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Let us get the record clear on this document if you please. I do not believe we have made the record clear. Again, I lay before you the program of the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace in which there appear the names of a number of sponsors including one Jack Gilford, and I ask you whether or not you are that Jack Gilford.

Mr. GILFORD. I think you started off, sir—just one moment. I think you started off, sir, by talking about the Fund for the Republic report and my appearance in this report.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that this witness be ordered and directed to answer the question.

Mr. POPPER. I respectfully suggest you allow him to finish his answer, Mr. Arens.

Mr. GILFORD. This report takes in my career. It doesn't quite take it in, sir. I would just like to add to it. I have——

Mr. ARENS. Are you ready to talk about your career?

Mr. GILFORD. No, sir. I am ready to talk about the reason you called me, and that is the blacklist and my appearance in the Cogley report.

Mr. ARENS. Are there some phases of your career that you just do not feel you would like to talk about?

Mr. GILFORD. Professional career, no. I would be glad to.

Mr. ARENS. Let us see if there is any phase of your career in the Communist Party you wouldn't talk about today. Would you kindly tell us whether or not you are the Jack Gilford indicated in the document which I have just laid before you, the program of the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. GILFORD. I refuse to answer about any of my alleged affiliations for the same reasons I previously stated.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend if you told this committee——

Mr. GILFORD. Now will you let me say something, sir? I have answered your question.

Mr. ARENS. Do you honestly apprehend if you told this committee truthfully whether or not you are the Jack Gilford alluded to in the program of the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace you would be supplying information which could be used against you in a criminal proceeding?

Mr. GILFORD. The same answer as before, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Whenever you want to start talking about blacklisting we will start with the question as to whether or not members of the Communist conspiracy ought to be employed in mass communications media.

Mr. POPPER. Is that a question? I don't know whether that is a question or a statement.

Mr. ARENS. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Chairman, that counsel again be admonished that his sole function before this committee is to advise his client with respect to his constitutional rights.

Now I lay before you a photostatic copy of the Communist Daily Worker of Friday, May 2, 1947.

Mr. GILFORD. Mr. Arens, I cannot cosult my notes. You are standing too close to me. It makes me a little nervous.

Mr. ARENS. I will certainly be glad to move back for the moment.

I lay before you now a photostatic copy of the Communist Daily Worker of Friday, May 2, 1947, in which an advertisement appears by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, of a Carnival-Bazaar. Indicated in that advertisement are a number of entertainers scheduled to entertain on that occasion on May 4–7, 1947, including one Jack Gilford, spelled Guilford in this advertisement. I ask you whether or not you are the Jack Gilford alluded to in that public document as a person who was to entertain for the American-Soviet Friendship Council on that occasion?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. GILFORD. I must say, sir, that has nothing to do with blacklisting the TV industry. You know what the blacklist is in the TV industry. It covers——

The CHAIRMAN. Just answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. It covers hundreds of people, sir. It is a terrible thing.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Gilford, you are directed to answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. I have been in show business 21 years. My living, my livelihood has been sharply curtailed by this. It is not an American thing. I would like to help correct it. I am sorry that I am very excited about this.

Mr. ARENS. Do you think it is un-American for those who control the mass communications media of this Nation to deprive members of the Communist conspiracy from access to mass communications media?

Mr. GILFORD. I think, sir, I will answer it this way: I think it is un-American to deprive anybody of their livelihood because of a political affiliation.

Mr. ARENS. Do you think that it is un-American——

Mr. GILFORD. And this committee has helped blacklist people.

Mr. ARENS. Has this committee then, in your judgment, helped to deprive Communist conspirators of access to the mass communications media of this Nation?

Mr. GILFORD. I think the people who are not Communists have been deprived. I know that people who are not and people who may have been are deprived. I think it is a terrible thing, sir. It doesn't confine itself to any one group. It is something that is out of control, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Have you at any time been unjustly accused of being a member of the Communist conspiracy?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. GILFORD. I have been blacklisted—period. That is all.

Mr. ARENS. I lay before you a photostatic copy of the Communist Daily Worker of September 4, 1947, in which appears an article respecting the Committee to Aid the Fighting South and one of those listed as a participant in that entertainment is one Jack Gilford. I ask you whether or not you are the Jack Gilford alluded to.

Mr. GILFORD. This is a little tiresome to me, sir. I would like to say that an investigator for this committee, Dolores Scotti, and Vincent Hartnett, publisher of Red Channels, are in collusion to blacklist people without giving them a chance even to say anything.

Mr. ARENS. We are giving you a chance right this minute. Are you or have you ever been a member of the Communist conspiracy?

The CHAIRMAN. You now have the greatest opportunity that you have ever had or ever will have——

Mr. GILFORD. Am I yelling too loud, Mr. Walter?

The CHAIRMAN. To eliminate whatever shadow you say has been cast over you by what some people have said about you. Are you a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. GILFORD. I have answered that question before.

The CHAIRMAN. What is your answer?

Mr. GILFORD. My answer is the same as before, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. What is that?

Mr. GILFORD. I answered that question before, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the answer?

Mr. GILFORD. That I am not.

The CHAIRMAN. What?

Mr. GILFORD. I am not.

The CHAIRMAN. You are not a member?

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist Party last year?

Mr. GILFORD. I have answered that question before, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Answer it again.

Mr. GILFORD. I refuse—I have an affidavit that I would like to read.

Mr. ARENS. Were you ever a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. POPPER. He is going to answer your question, Mr. Arens. He will answer if you will give him a chance.

The CHAIRMAN. Were you a Communist last year?

Mr. GILFORD. This affidavit was signed in 1950.

The CHAIRMAN. Answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. This is my answer. It is a direct answer. I would like it phrased in this way, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. All right.

Mr. GILFORD. This is from AGVA, the American Guild of Variety Artists, a sworn affidavit. "I, the undersigned"—I have the date somewhere. "I, the undersigned"——

The CHAIRMAN. What are you reading?

Mr. GILFORD. It is an affidavit that I have not read yet.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the date of the affidavit?

Mr. GILFORD. I have it on a piece of paper.

The CHAIRMAN. I thought you were reading from an affidavit.

Mr. GILFORD. Yes. [Reading:]

I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, do solemnly swear that I am not a member of the Communist Party, or of any Fascist party or of any political subdivision thereof. I do not believe in and I am not a member of nor do I support any organization that believes in or teaches the overthrow of the United States Government by force or by illegal or unconstitutional methods or means. I further pledge allegiance to the United States of America and agree to oppose any attempt made by any subversive groups or organizations to overthrow the Government of the United States by force, violence, or any other unlawful means whatsoever.

I signed that.

The CHAIRMAN. May I see that affidavit, please?

Mr. POPPER. This affidavit is on file with the union, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ARENS. What is the date?

Mr. GILFORD. I will get that.

The CHAIRMAN. Where are you working now, Mr. Gilford?

Mr. GILFORD. I am working in New York in a show called The Diary of Anne Frank.

The CHAIRMAN. How long has that been running?

Mr. GILFORD. About 10 months.

The CHAIRMAN. Before that where were you working?

Mr. GILFORD. Before that a few summer jobs, scattered summer jobs. No television. My principal livelihood before this was television. In a year, a little more than a year, I had more than 40 television appearances, all major appearances, TV interviews and plays. I have a long list which probably would bore you.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you remember the dates?

Mr. GILFORD. From the end of 1950 to the end of 1951.

The CHAIRMAN. I thought you were described as blacklisted in 1947.

Mr. GILFORD. I did not, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You said you were listed in Red Channels in 1947.

Mr. GILFORD. I didn't say—I said I was listed. As a matter of fact, I didn't say I was listed in Red Channels.

Mr. POPPER. Mr. Arens said that.

Mr. ARENS. I was quoting from the Fund for the Republic.

Mr. GILFORD. But you are there, and I am here. I didn't say it.

Mr. ARENS. The next question is——

Mr. GILFORD. Do you want the date, sir? You don't want the date?

Mr. SCHERER. Just a moment.

Mr. GILFORD. Let me continue. The Fred Allen show, called the Chesterfield show—I would like you to know, sir——

Mr. SCHERER. There is no question.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly answer this question? Are you presently under Communist discipline?

Mr. GILFORD. I answered that question, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Answer it again.

Mr. GILFORD. By this affidavit.

Mr. ARENS. Are you presently under Communist Party discipline?

Mr. GILFORD. I object very strongly to the question, because I have answered in my affidavit that I am not a member of the Communist Party nor any subdivision of it.

Mr. ARENS. Now tell the committee whether or not you are presentlv under Communist Party discipline.

Mr. GILFORD. I don't know what that means, sir. It is a tricky question. I really don't know—after answering it as fully as I can, I don't know——

Mr. ARENS. Did you ever resign technical membership in the Communist Party?

Mr. GILFORD. I have answered this question. I refuse to answer that question under the previously stated grounds.

Mr. ARENS. Do you know a person by the name of George Tyne, T-y-n-e?

Mr. GILFORD. I know him, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been a member of an organization of which he was a member?

Mr. GILFORD. Which organization?

Mr. ARENS. Any organization.

Mr. GILFORD. Well, he is an actor, sir.

Mr. ARENS. Have you ever been a member of the same Communist Party cell with George Tyne?

Mr. GILFORD. I refuse to answer that question, like I refused to answer the previous similar questions.

Mr. ARENS. I put it to you as a fact, and ask you to affirm or deny the fact, that you were a member of the same Communist Party conspiratorial cell with George Tyne.

Mr. GILFORD. That question has nothing to do with my being thrown off TV, and I would like to talk about, for instance, the Chesterfield-Fred Allen show that I started rehearsing, and Mr. Johnson, from Syracuse, this grocer, came into New York and went to the Chesterfield people, and had me fired.

Mr. ARENS. Tell us whether or not you were under Communist Party discipline at that time?

Mr. GILFORD. And the information he received came directly from this committee.

Mr. ARENS. Would you kindly tell the committee today, now, whether or not when Mr. Johnson came and had you fired off the Fred Allen show you were under Communist Party discipline?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. GILFORD. I would like to be clear about this. Is it your opinion, Mr. Walter, that people should be fired from their jobs because of their political opinions or affiliations?

The CHAIRMAN. Answer Mr. Arens' question.

Mr. GILFORD. You refuse to clarify that for me, sir?

The CHAIRMAN. Proceed, Mr. Arens.

Mr. ARENS. The question is outstanding on the record, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GILFORD. I beg your pardon.

Mr. ARENS. At the time you were discharged from your job on the Fred Allen show, were you under Communist Party discipline?

Mr. GILFORD. What date was that? October 1951. I answered that question. That was October 1951.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the answer?

Mr. GILFORD. I filed an affidavit in 1950.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the answer?

Mr. GILFORD. The answer is "No," like I answered before.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist Party in 1949?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. GILFORD. I would like to state again, a little more calmly this time, that this question is a diversion of the purpose you told me about at the beginning of this hearing or the purpose that Mr. Walter stated, and that is to see whether there is a blacklist and whether people are fired, you know, for political affiliations. I think it is just a diversion.

Mr. ARENS. Thank you, sir. Now kindly answer the question. Were you a member of the Communist Party in 1949?

Mr. GILFORD. The same answer as before, sir. I refuse to answer.

Mr. ARENS. Were you a member of the Communist Party immediately prior to the time that you made this non-Communist affidavit which you say you submitted to someone?

Mr. GILFORD. I must refuse to answer that question under my constitutional privilege.

Mr. ARENS. I put it to you as a fact, sir, and ask you to affirm or deny the fact, that immediately prior to the time that you filed the non-Communist affidavit you were a member of the Communist Party and that you had a technical resignation solely and exclusively to comply with the terms of the affidavit. If that isn't true you deny it under oath.

Mr. POPPER. They have no right to ask that question. The same answer.

Mr. GILFORD. I must refuse to answer that question.

Mr. ARENS. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully suggest that will conclude the staff interrogation of this witness.

The CHAIRMAN. Any questions?

Mr. POPPER. In other words, you don't want to hear anything about the blacklist?

Mr. ARENS. Any time he wants to talk about blacklisting we will ask him whether or not it is blacklisting to deprive members of the Communist conspiracy of employment in the mass media of communications.

Mr. POPPER. I beg the indulgence of the chairman, who knows I have respected him over these years. You have called this man all the way to Philadelphia. He has the greatest amount of personal experience regarding the actual operation of the blacklist. You have told the whole country that the purpose of this investigation is to determine that——

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Scherer has a question he would like to ask.

Mr. POPPER. The result will only be that the country won't believe this is an investigation about the blacklist, and I know you don't want that to be a fact.

Mr. SCHERER. Witness, have you read the reference to you in the report of the Fund for the Republic on the subject of blacklisting?

Mr. GILFORD. You mean with reference to myself?

Mr. SCHERER. Yes.

Mr. GILFORD. Yes; I have.

Mr. SCHERER. Have you read the whole report?

Mr. GILFORD. Not the whole report.

Mr. SCHERER. You read only that part which refers to yourself?

Mr. GILFORD. No; I read good chunks of it and what refers to me. I didn't get it until—I have had no time to read it, sir.

Mr. SCHERER. Were you interviewed by a representative of the Fund for the Republic before this report was issued? I didn't hear your answer.

Mr. GILFORD. I am trying, sir.

Mr. SCHERER. You go ahead and think.

Mr. GILFORD. Thank you.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. GILFORD. If I answer that, sir, would I be placing some newspaper reporter in jeopardy?

Mr. SCHERER. I am not talking about newspaper reporters. I am talking about a representative of the Fund for the Republic.

Mr. GILFORD. Very well, would I be placing a reporter in jeopardy?

Mr. SCHERER. Mr. Chairman, I ask that you direct the witness to answer. He has been talking all this while about wanting to say something about blacklisting. I am asking him about the report dealing with blacklisting, in which he is also involved, and he is beginning to hedge already.

Mr. GILFORD. Fine. I am not hedging, sir.

Mr. BETHUEL M. WEBSTER (counsel, Fund for the Republic). Sir, as counsel for the Fund for the Republic, I would appreciate it if he would answer that question.

The CHAIRMAN. We will conduct this hearing. We will conduct this congressional inquiry according to the rules of the Congress. We are not going to permit you again to do what you did in Washington last week. I know what you are trying to do.

Mr. WEBSTER. I have a right to say the Fund does not assert any privilege of this character.

The CHAIRMAN. Just take your seat.

Mr. GILFORD. I am very happy to answer that. I was interviewed by several people. I am not sure of all their names. Do you want me to name them?

Mr. SCHERER. I asked you one question, sir. Were you interviewed by a representative of the Fund for the Republic prior to the issuance of this report?

Mr. GILFORD. Yes.

Mr. SCHERER. Who interviewed you?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. GILFORD. Do you really want me to answer that, sir?

The CHAIRMAN. Why, of course. It is very material. Answer the question.

Mr. GILFORD. Mike Harrington.

Mr. SCHERER. By anyone else?

Mr. GILFORD. I answer this question with great objection, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Why? What is the great objection?

Mr. GILFORD. Because I think it impinges on the freedom of the press and I think it makes people fearful of interviewing people. I can't remember the full names of the other people. I am sorry.

Mr. SCHERER. There were others from the Fund?

Mr. GILFORD. Yes, there were others.

Mr. SCHERER. Did you fill out——

Mr. GILFORD. I really can't remember their names.

Mr. SCHERER. How many persons interviewed you, other than Mike Harrington, from the Fund for the Republic?

Mr. GILFORD. There were two others.

Mr. SCHERER. You have no idea who they were at this moment?

Mr. GILFORD. I could verify it. I am sorry I don't recall their names, sir.

Mr. SCHERER. Did you fill out a questionnaire for the Fund for the Republic? Did they submit a questionnaire to you?

Mr. GILFORD. Not to my knowledge, sir.

Mr. SCHERER. When was this interview with Mr. Harrington, approximately?

Mr. GILFORD. Approximately. I can't be sure. This is 1956. I guess it was last year or 1954.

Mr. SCHERER. Were you employed at the time you talked to Mr. Harrington?

Mr. GILFORD. I think I was not employed.

Mr. SCHERER. You are not sure?

Mr. GILFORD. I am not sure, but the chances are that I was not employed.

Mr. SCHERER. You told Mr. Harrington, did you not, of your experience in the Metropolitan Opera House as a result of the Legion post in Syracuse?

Mr. GILFORD. Yes, sir.

Mr. SCHERER. You told him about that. Did you also tell him that you were blacklisted as the result of your name being listed in Red Channels? Did you tell him that?

Mr. GILFORD. I don't remember whether I told him that, sir. I told him I was blacklisted. I am pretty sure of that.

Mr. SCHERER. Did you know that the report of the Fund for the Republic says that your blacklisting resulted from your name appearing in this book Red Channels?

Mr. GILFORD. I don't know whether it says that, sir.

Mr. POPPER. It doesn't say that.

Mr. SCHERER. Did you mention anything about it to Mr. Harrington? Will you listen to my question?

Mr. GILFORD. I am listening, sir.

Mr. SCHERER. Did you tell Mr. Harrington or any of the other investigators for the Fund for the Republic about your having been listed in Red Channels?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. GILFORD. May I have the question again? I am sorry.

Mr. SCHERER. Did you tell any of the persons who interviewed you for the Fund of the Republic about your having been listed in Red Channels?

Mr. GILFORD. I must have.

Mr. SCHERER. Did I understand you correctly to say in response to a question asked by counsel for the committee that you were not blacklisted as the result of your being listed in Red Channels?

Mr. GILFORD. I didn't say that.

Mr. SCHERER. You did not say that?

Mr. GILFORD. I didn't say it, but I would like to give you a very choice case.

Mr. SCHERER. We will get to that.

Mr. GILFORD. I am afraid we are not getting to it, sir. I keep trying and you keep interrupting me.

The CHAIRMAN. You answer the questions, Mr. Gilford. We will get around to this.

Mr. GILFORD. But this isn't really getting——

The CHAIRMAN. We have plenty of time.

Mr. GILFORD. I don't think I have plenty of time. I have a matinee to play, to get back to New York. I have to be at the theater at 2 o'clock.

Mr. SCHERER. Will you try to answer my questions?

Mr. GILFORD. I would like to supply you with this material.

Mr. SCHERER. I am doing, witness, what you want to do, to confine the questions to the Fund for the Republic report on blacklisting.

Mr. POPPER. Sure.

Mr. SCHERER. Red Channels was published in 1947, was it not?

Mr. GILFORD. No; it wasn't published in 1947. I don't know the exact date. It was published years later.

Mr. SCHERER. Years later?

Mr. GILFORD. Yes.

Mr. SCHERER. Mr. Arens, what was the date of the publication of Red Channels?

Mr. GILFORD. I think it was June 1950. I am not sure of the date. I would like to be more sure.

Mr. SCHERER. When you talked to the investigator for the Fund for the Republic, did you discuss with him your Communist affiliations?

Mr. GILFORD. No, sir.

Mr. SCHERER. You are shaking your head "No." Let us get that in the record.

Mr. GILFORD. Oh.

Mr. POPPER. You object to the question?

Mr. GILFORD. I certainly object to the question, sir. I am quite sure I didn't discuss anything of that nature with him.

Mr. SCHERER. Are you quite sure you did not? Did he ask you when he was preparing this report whether or not you had ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. GILFORD. I don't think we discussed anything of that nature.

Mr. SCHERER. You didn't even discuss that?

Mr. GILFORD. I don't think so.

Mr. SCHERER. Did he call to your attention your membership in the Communist-front organizations about which Mr. Arens asked you?

Mr. GILFORD. I don't think so, sir.

Mr. SCHERER. I am sure he did.

Mr. POPPER. I beg your pardon.

Mr. GILFORD. I am sure he did not, if I may say that.

Mr. POPPER. I am sorry. Was the last a question or a statement?

Mr. SCHERER. It was just a comment.

Mr. POPPER. What was it?

The CHAIRMAN. He was commenting to me. I concur in it.

Mr. POPPER. We couldn't hear it.

The CHAIRMAN. It wasn't intended for you. It was intended for me.

Mr. POPPER. Oh.

Mr. SCHERER. When did your lack of employment start, Witness? When did that start, what year?

Mr. GILFORD. When was it?

Mr. SCHERER. In what year? You said you were employed fairly regularly until 1951 or 1952.

Mr. GILFORD. Yes, sir; quite regularly until early 1952.

Mr. SCHERER. 1952.

Mr. GILFORD. That is right. Actually, very regularly from the time of the Met, which was December 1950, to the beginning of 1952, and then no TV since then.

Mr. SCHERER. It was at that time, was it not, that the TV industry found that you were a member of the Communist conspiracy?

Mr. GILFORD. Are you asking me, sir, or just commenting?

Mr. SCHERER. No; I am asking you if that wasn't the time.

Mr. GILFORD. I don't know, but I would like to show you a letter that CBS wrote to Johnson apologizing for employing me. CBS, the television network.

Mr. SCHERER. Your answer to my question is that you do not know?

Mr. GILFORD. That is another case, another instance.

Mr. SCHERER. Your answer to my question is, then, that you do not know whether or not the industry learned in 1952 that you were a member of the Communist conspiracy.

Mr. GILFORD. Are you asking me what the industry learned?

Mr. SCHERER. You do not know. That is your answer.

It was after 1952, then, that you noticed this dropoff of your employment?

Mr. GILFORD. Yes.

Mr. SCHERER. If I tell you that Red Channels was published in 1948——

Mr. GILFORD. Was it? I don't know.

Mr. SCHERER. Then it wasn't because of your listing in Red Channels.

Mr. GILFORD. Is that a matter of record that it was published in 1948?

Mr. SCHERER. I have no further questions.

The CHAIRMAN. The witness is excused. We will take a 5-minute recess.

Mr. GILFORD. My blacklisting is the result of cooperation with the work of this committee and agencies along Madison Avenue and the American Legion and various similar other organizations.

Mr. SCHERER. Wasn't it because of your own membership in the Communist Party, then, that you were blacklisted?

Mr. GILFORD. You mean because of political affiliations people should be blacklisted?

Mr. SCHERER. That is all.

The CHAIRMAN. The witness is excused. The committee will stand in recess.

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[1] Incorrectly appears as Emergency Civil Rights Committee.

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